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"Protecting and Supporting Law Enforcement"



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A CODE "10-13" TO HELP A FEDERAL AGENT

DATE: July 7, 2015
TO: NPDF Members & Supporters
Law Enforcement Personnel & Police Associations
FROM: Joseph Occhipinti, Executive Director
National Police Defense Foundation
SUBJECT: DHS Special Agent Angel Echevarria Legal Defense Fund



The National Police Defense Foundation (NPDF), a congressionally and IRS designated 501 (c) (3) police organization, would like to bring to your attention the plight of U.S. Department of Homeland Security Special Agent Angel Echevarria who is assigned to the U.S. Marshal's Fugitive Task Force in Miami, Florida.

S/A Echevarria is a highly decorated U.S. Army war veteran and law enforcement officer who has been criminally charged with felony aggravated assault with a weapon in Palm Beach County, which arose out of an off duty incident that occurred in Boca Raton, Florida on September 7, 2013.

The NPDF has documented a serious increase of armed assaults on law enforcement officers by career criminals who violate the law but are never charged. Instead, in light of the anti-police atmosphere, prosecutors find it "politically correct" to make those criminals their prosecution witnesses resulting in the law enforcement officer becoming the defendant.

The purpose of this letter is to ask for your help by making a tax-deductible donation to the S/A Angel Echevarria Legal Defense Fund where 100% of your donation will go to the agent's legal defense. The agent is in substantial financial debt since his legal defense insurance from the "Federal Employee Defense Services" (FEDS) declined his claim for representation alleging he was "not acting in the scope of his authority". To make things worse, the agent who has a wife and five children has been placed on administrative leave since October 2014, without pay and has exhausted all of his life savings to pay for his attorney's legal fees.

The second purpose of this letter is to request letters of support to the Governor of Florida requesting an independent investigation be conducted into the S/A Echevarria's prosecution. I will explain in detail the disturbing facts of the case and the NPDF's outrage that the prosecution's "key witness" is a suspected criminal alien with numerous interactions with

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NATIONAL HEADQUARTERS

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The NPDF is an IRS 501(c)(3) non-profit foundation that funds the "Safe Cop" and "Operation Kids" Programs.



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the police including three criminal arrests. This is an important factor since it demonstrates the credibility of the prosecution's key witness versus the testimony of a professional law enforcement officer.

What is more outrageous is that on the day of the incident the police seized from the suspect's impounded vehicle a loaded gun and drugs, however he has not been charged!

RESULTS OF NPDF INVESTIGATION

In June 2015, NPDF Investigators who are retired state criminal investigators conducted an investigation into the prosecution against S/A Echevarria, which included a review of the evidence and witness testimony. The exculpatory evidence that is favorable to the officer's defense is so lengthy that it is not feasible to incorporate in this synopsis. Instead, I will provide a basic overview of the NPDF's investigation and its findings to support the agent's testimony that he took appropriate law enforcement action in discharging his firearm in order to protect himself and his family from imminent danger.

The basic thrust of the case is that on September 7, 2013, S/A Echevarria was driving in Boca Raton, Florida with his wife and five children to a family birthday party when another motorist appeared to get annoyed when the agent honked his horn to avoid an accident with his vehicle. The suspect then proceeded in a "cat and mouse game" of boxing in the agent's vehicle with no avenue of escape causing the officer to have an accident with another vehicle. The agent's wife immediately called 911 and was directed to go to the mall to meet police. Upon arrival at the mall's entrance, the agent and his wife unexpectedly saw an illegally parked vehicle that resembled the suspect's vehicle (low rider red Camry), however, they weren't sure.

It wasn't until the agent stopped in front of the suspect's car, made "eye to eye" contact and observed him remove from under the driver's seat and pointed what he believed to be a firearm at his vehicle. S/A Echevarria, based on his law enforcement training immediately exited his vehicle with his weapon drawn to protect his family and gave law enforcement commands of "Police, Police, Stop, Put The Gun Down". Instead, the suspect ran him over with his vehicle.

When his wife went to his aide, the suspect then attempted to hit her as well with his vehicle causing the agent to discharge his firearm at the suspect to prevent his wife from being struck. The vehicle nevertheless struck Mrs. Echevarria and the suspect fled the scene with his brother who also has prior arrests including resisting arrest. Mrs. Echevarria was transported to the hospital by EMS where physicians documented both the agent and his wife's injuries as being consistent with being struck by a vehicle.

What I found significant is that the suspect fled the scene after the shooting and was later contacted by police through a cell number, provided by his wife, to return to the mall. The complainant's wife, who was previously arrested for shoplifting, was at the mall. She separately told the investigating officers and 911 dispatcher that she couldn't understand why her husband never reported the shooting incident. Moreover, she also told authorities that when she initially spoke to her husband on the phone, he told her not to call the police which she did anyway.

The suspect, as directed by the police by phone, returned to the mall in another vehicle, which in itself is highly suspicious. The suspects' vehicle was later located by police and a search warrant was executed, resulting in the seizure of a loaded firearm under the driver's seat and a small quantity of marijuana in the trunk. It should be noted the suspect initially denied to the 911 operator and responding police that he had a gun in his vehicle. He later admitted to falsifying a police report after his car was confiscated and the weapon was seized.

There are many questions as to why the investigating detective refused to arrest the suspect for the weapons and drug violations or conduct an ATF trace on the suspect's seized gun to determine if it was used in other crimes. Nor, did the forensics unit see fit to process the suspect's vehicle to confirm that both the officer and his wife were struck by his vehicle. Instead, the investigating detective relied upon the sworn statement of the suspect who is now the chief prosecution witness.

It is theorized that the investigating detective may have decided to charge S/A Echevarria because he was reportedly angered that the officer refused to provide a written statement on the scene until he spoke to an attorney. In addition, S/A Echevarria's supervisor from the Marshal Service Task Force who responded to the scene reportedly exchanged words with the detective when he refused to allow the marshals participation in the apprehension of the complainant/now suspect.

A review of public record documents disclose credible evidence that the suspect had numerous interactions and arrests

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with the police which included three felony arrests for domestic violence, assault, weapons violations, drug possession and resisting arrest. The first arrest being on March 28, 2007 in Boynton Beach, Florida for carrying a concealed weapon where he told police he was a US Citizen alleging his birth was in New York. The second arrest was in Broward County on December 12, 2013, for felony battery causing great bodily harm, wherein he used his brother's name and social security number, again claiming to have been born in the Bronx, New York. This biographical information erroneously provided the police by the suspect contradicts his third arrest, which occurred on November 11, 2014 in Hollywood, Florida for drug possession, where he used his real name but stated he was born in a Middle East country.

As you can see this is a bizarre prosecution where there is no doubt that the complainant/suspect is simply laughing at the criminal justice system. Like most criminals, they are convinced to become a prosecution witness, in order to be immune from prosecution. Therefore, it is critical that the law enforcement community and law abiding citizens like yourself support S/A Angel Echevarria by making a tax deductible donation as described below:

S/A ANGEL ECHEVARRIA LEGAL DEFENSE FUND

**Post Office Box 318
Englishtown, New Jersey 07726**

**OR, CREDIT CARD DONATIONS VIA WWW.NPDF.ORG
or CALL TOLL FREE 888-SAFE COP**

The NPFD also asks for letters of support be sent to Florida Governor Rick Scott requesting an independent investigation be conducted into this officers prosecution. Please send a courtesy copy of your letter to the NPFD at npdf1@aol.com or fax at 732-862-1444.

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR RICK SCOTT

**State of Florida
The Capitol
400 S. Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001
(850) 488-7146**

In conclusion, I want to thank you for your continued law enforcement support and generosity in helping a highly decorated military veteran and law enforcement officer. S/A Echevarria is in substantial financial debt your tax-deductible donation is critical in helping to prove his innocence and financially support his family of seven. Let's hope and pray that "truth and justice prevails".

Fraternally yours,



Joseph Occhipinti
Executive Director